EAST ORANGE, N.J. – The United Methodist Church of Greater New Jersey was well represented in numbers at the Criminal Justice Reform Forum on Aug. 11 that featured New Jersey Sen. Cory Booker and other religious leaders from around the state. And at least some of the about 75 GNJ members, including 30 clergy, who attended the event were well represented among the voices calling for change in the current justice system.

One of those voices was GNJ Bishop John Schol, who gave some of the opening remarks to the audience of about 300 at Christ Episcopal Church.

“The criminal justice system more often emphasizes punishment over rehabilitation and applies the law unevenly while our faith traditions and moral sensibilities call for restorative justice and applying laws equally and fairly,” Schol said. “This is an issue that is important for all of us and it affects our communities in countless ways.”

Participation in the forum, which focused on race, religion and criminal justice, reinforces the commitment Greater New Jersey United Methodists made to equal justice under the law, racial justice, institutional racism and white privilege in resolutions passed at the 2015 Annual Conference.

The speakers in the forum shared statistics on the criminal justice system in the United States to demonstrate the need for action:

- The United States leads the world in the number of people incarcerated.
- The U.S. has had a 500 percent increase in incarcerations in the last 35 years which includes an increase in the number of people incarcerated for drug offenses from 41,0000 to 500,000.
- More than 60 percent of the people in prison today are people of color.
- African American men are six times more likely to be incarcerated than Caucasian men.
- One in every 10 African American men in their 30s are in prison or jail on any given day.
- “People have to see that we have a system that is a big reason for our problems,” said Vanessa Wilson, the Greater New Jersey Chairperson for the Commission on Religion and Race, who attended the event. “I'm glad we are staying on this issue because the first thing you have to do is get educated.”

Booker gave the keynote address and helped educate the captive audience on why criminal justice reform is such an important issue.

“We have five percent of the population in the world, but we have one quarter of the world’s prison population,” Booker said. “We are the incarceration nation. We are spending $4 trillion per year dealing with this problem.”

Booker pointed out that when examining the problem within the African American community, the numbers are even more stunning.

“The system is profoundly against poor people and people of color,” Booker said. “A person of color is 3.7 times more likely to be arrested than a person who is white.”

After Booker’s address he joined a five person forum that answered questions
A Special Letter

I am blessed as your bishop to witness and hear about great faithfulness and ministry throughout GN. Quite often I receive letters of faith. Instead of an article this month I wanted to share a letter I received on Aug. 5, 2015. It blessed me and I hope it will be a blessing to you.

Dear Bishop Schol

I am writing you today to notify you of the passing of the Reverend George C. Schleisinger, my grandfather and his wife Maxine Schleisinger on Aug. 4, 2015. My grandfather devoted his life to serving God and the United Methodist Church. He was born and raised in Central Pennsylvania which was something he was very proud of. He answered the call as many proud Americans did and joined the United States Marine Corps during World War II. After faithfully serving in the South Pacific, he left the Marines to return to Central Pennsylvania. There he worked on the assembly line at Piper Aircraft until as he so often put it, “God called me off the assembly line.”

My earliest memory is when my grandfather was appointed to Springfield Emanuel United Methodist Church in Springfield, N.J. I remember seeing him preach from the pulpit with an energy and passion that I have never seen before or since. Every time he took the pulpit it was like seeing a major league baseball superstar step up to the plate. This is what he was born to do and he did it with extreme passion. My brother Nick and I would see him working in his office every week to prepare his sermon like a football player studies film during the week of the Super Bowl.

But to my grandfather every Sunday was his Super Bowl. It was his time to reach out to the congregation and not only make them hear the word of God, but to truly understand and embrace it.

My grandfather and grandmother were married 68 years and are the greatest love story that I will ever know. On June 4, my grandfather was diagnosed with cancer and given a diagnosis of three months to live. To most people this would be the most depressing news, but not to my grandfather. His faith was unshakeable, stronger than any cancer. He took comfort in knowing that in three months he would be sitting next to his God. My grandmother although diagnosed years ago with dementia was nowhere near the end of her life. Actually most doctors predicted she had years left on her life.

Late last month my grandfather was placed in the care of hospice as his condition was getting worse. As this was happening I was home where my grandmother, who was predicted to have years left on her life, began a rapid decline of health. At this point her dementia had progressed to the point where she was “healthy”, but could not remember anything.

It was as if she sensed my grandfather was not doing well and was not going to stay in this world without the love of her life. They were transferred to a facility in Toms River and placed in the same room. They had beds next to each other so they could hold hands. They would never wake up again. On August 4th at 1:40 a.m. my grandmother took her last breath and ascended into heaven to wait for her love. Exactly nine hours to the minute, at 10:40 a.m. my grandfather took his last breath and ascended to heaven. He took my grandmother’s hand, gave her a kiss, and they both walked through the gates of heaven to be with their God and be with each other in eternity.

My grandparents were not going to be on this planet without each other.

They made a promise in front of their friends and God on June 30, 1947 to have a home until death do us part. What little did anyone know that day was that death would not even keep them apart. My grandparents had a long life filled with lots of family and friends. We will miss them every day that they are not here, but we will take comfort in knowing that they are together and at peace. They are sitting with their family and friends who have passed and most of all, they are sitting with their God that they have served with honor while on this planet. This is truly a story of the power of love and the comfort of faith.

Sincerely,
Jason Lytle

The October Issue Deadline is September 15, 2015
Gonzalez All In As IGNITE Speaker

By Jeff Wolfe
jwolfe@gnjumc.org

Gian-Paul Gonzalez is known for speaking to and motivating professional sports teams with his “All In” message. He’s led chapels in the NBA and NFL, most notably speaking to the New York Giants who credited him for inspiring them on a playoff run that ended with a Super Bowl victory in February of 2012. But as a New Jersey high school teacher, Gonzalez says the youths he sees on a day-to-day basis aren’t much different than those professional athletes. Gonzalez will be the keynote speaker at the IGNITE Youth Conference on Oct. 2-4 in Wildwood and he says those who attend will hear some of the same things he’s told the pros.

“The interesting thing about all the different groups I have had a chance to work with is that we all go back to our human condition,” Gonzalez said. “People ask me how do you speak to those sports team, but I’ve felt all along that I treat them the same way I do a 16-year-old. Those athletes just have more zeroes on the end of their bank account.”

While athletes, whether high school, college or professional, are mostly measured by what the scoreboard says, Gonzalez says the victories off the field are much more important to him than the results of athletic competition.

“When I talk to a team, I tell them I’m not here because I think you are going to win, but that my main concern is about your heart and mind,” Gonzalez said. “The greatest thing I hear when I see them later is when they say they have decided to have a greater commitment to their wife, or decided to take commitment to not pursue a professional basketball career, who Jesus is or that I go to church. Sometimes we can say, well, I believe in God, or I know who Jesus is or that I go to church. I want to pose a challenge that being a Christian is not just going to church, it’s a way of living, and that’s what’s going to make me stand out.”

Something that Gonzalez had a chance to do, but decided not to, was pursue a career in the NBA. As a 6-foot-6 forward, he scored more than 1,400 points at Montclair State University. He was playing in an NBA summer league after his college career was over and he says those who attend will hear some of the same things he’s told the pros.

“Championships come and go, MVPs come and go, but it’s your brother or sister or mother and father, that’s something that we can all do right now.”

Sometimes Gonzalez had a chance to do, but decided not to, was pursue a career in the NBA. As a 6-foot-6 forward, he scored more than 1,400 points at Montclair State University. He was playing in an NBA summer league after his college career was over and he decided to take a degree where we can’t be concerned about outside opinion.”

Just as Gonzalez made a tough decision to not pursue a professional basketball career, he says parts of his IGNITE messages will challenge youths.

“I know even after growing up, we sometimes become disillusioned with faith,” he said. “Sometimes we believe it is going to be easy. Sometimes we can say, well, I believe in God, or I know who Jesus is or that I go to church. I want to pose a challenge that being all in and totally committed as a young man or a young woman, and to do the things that God has put in your life now as well as going forward, that’s going to be hard. It’s going to take commitment to a degree where we can’t be concerned about outside opinion.”

Gonzalez understands while it may be easy to make a commitment amidst friends and hundreds of others at a spiritually based weekend program, that things can change quickly for youths when they return to home or school environments that are not as spiritually encouraging. Gonzalez plans to give the youths some tools to help them in those times, too.

“The theme I’m going to hit on is what it means to be committed in your walk and what it is going to look like,” Gonzalez said. “It’s just going to be truth that comes from the Word and I want to break it down into practical applications. I know we hear a lot of good things, and then even as adults we forget them. So after each session, I am going to give every single member of the audience a small gift and some will be a little more unique than others.

“It’s something they can take away and put on their bed mantel or locker in school and they are reminded of that moment. It’s a way that they can take that moment with them and say I am going to stick with it and it’s worth it when things get tough.”

Other speakers, performers

A familiar face to last year’s IGNITE attendees and to those who attended regional rallies in the winter, Preston Centuolo will be the emcee for the weekend and will speak on a couple of occasions. He will also have his team of helpers and performers in the Ground Zero Masters Commission, a group of young adults that will assist with various things on and off stage throughout the weekend.

Another performer also announced for the weekend is comedian F.U.D.G.E. He has appeared regularly on several television shows such as BET Apollo Live, MTV Yo Momma NY and BET Coming to the Stage. He has also opened for Steve Harvey, Kevin Hart, Lisa Lampanelli, Mike Epps and Bishop TD Jakes. F.U.D.G.E. is currently working as a writer for the churchoflaugh.com, a fast growing website being shared by millions of viewers worldwide.

Joining previously announced music acts rapper KB and worship artist Phil Wickham will be Kurtis Parks, a former American Idol top 50 finalist who is now the worship director at National Community Church, a multi-site church in the Washington, D.C., area. Parks’ song “Everything That You Are” was a V1H Song of the Year finalist.

Gian-Paul Gonzalez likes to bring an “All In” attitude to professional sports teams and will be bringing it to the IGNITE Youth Conference in October.

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Do you have students going to Rutgers this fall? Would they benefit from a friendly face during their time at college?

LET US HELP!

Christ United Methodist Church in Piscataway seeks to show Christ’s love to Rutgers students.

We would love contact information for students willing to share their walk with a vibrant faith community during their time away from home.

CONTACT US AT: jessrigel@gmail.com or call 609.947.2246

Comedian F.U.D.G.E. (left) and worship leader Kurtis Parks will be among the performers at the 2015 IGNITE Youth Conference.

Rapper KB, who released his album ‘Tomorrow We Live’ earlier this year will be the Saturday night performer at IGNITE.

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If you have any questions, please contact the 2016 Annual Conference Planning Team office at 732-462-4371 or conference@umcnj.org.

IGNITE CONFERENCE 2015

OCTOBER 2-4

REGISTER @ www.IGNITE4NJ.org

FRIDAY
12:00 pm  Registration Opens
7:00 pm  Registration Opens
6:00 pm  Session 2 - Power with Gian-Paul Gonzalez

SATURDAY
10:00 am  Session 2 - Power with Preston Centuolo
1:00 pm  Contemplative Time
3:00 pm  Acoustic Coffee House Entertainment by F.U.D.G.E.
6:00 pm  Session 3 - Love with Gian-Paul Gonzalez
9:30 pm  Concert by KB

SUNDAY
8:00 - 10:00 am  Continental Breakfast
10:00 am  Session 4: "Self-Discipline with Gian-Paul Gonzalez"
1:30 pm  Wrap Up with Preston Centuolo
12:30 pm  Free Time
Religion and Race Receives Healing Communities Training

By Vanessa Wilson

The Greater New Jersey Commission on Religion and Race (GNJ CORR) committed to a social justice initiative for this quadrennial to engage in criminal justice reform and provide tools and resources for congregations. Specifically, GNJ CORR is addressing issues of racial disparity in the criminal justice system and looking at models of restorative justice.

The latest step in the initiative is to train more clergy as Healing Communities trainers. This most recent “train the trainer” program from Healing Communities included Rev. Loredes Magalhães of Davis Memorial UMC in Harrison, Rev. Vanessa M. Wilson of Magnolia Road UMC in Pemberton Township, who is the Chair of the Commission on Religion and Race, and Rev. Denise M. Wooten-Trowbridge, Senior Pastor and Founder of Workmen Devoted to Edifying the Body of Christ Evangelistic Church in Camden. Healing Communities is designed to equip faith leaders and laity with tools to build relationships of healing, redemption and reconciliation.

GNJ CORR has joined with the General Commission on Church and Society (GBCS) in the fight against mass incarceration. This was the second training program for clergy in the area. In 2014, GBCS sponsored Healing Communities training to members of Greater New Jersey and faith leaders from other denominations.

The trainers for this most recent session were Rev. Dr. Sonia L. King and Rev. Dr. Brian W. Jackson from the Baltimore-Washington Conference. Designed by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, and under the leadership of Rev. Dr. Harold Dean Tulear and Rev. Dr. Wilson Goode, the training provides resources for congregations to become Stations of Hope for the restoration of people affected by crime, incarceration and reintegration.

Sponsors of the most recent training included the GBCS, National Campaign Against Religious Torture and Rutgers School of Law – Newark, which graciously donated space for the two day training.

The primary purpose of GNJ CORR is to build the capacity of United Methodist Church of Greater New Jersey, to be relevant and to reach more people, younger people, and more diverse people.
Kathy Ahmad, the GNJ UMVIM Director, has been on several mission trips to Haiti where she shares a light moment with an orphan at the Methodist Children’s Home in Port-Au-Prince, Haiti, in 2011. Ahmad will be one of the presenters at the GNJ Mission Fair.

Mission Fair Offers A Chance To Share

By Jessica Stenstrom
Jessica_stenstrom@yahoo.com

The Greater New Jersey Board of the Global Ministries is hosting a Mission Fair on Sept. 19 at Christ UMC in Piscataway in hopes of helping conference pastors and church leaders resource themselves while networking with others in their geographic area.

“The idea behind the mission fair is to come and meet one another and to see what mission is being done in the conference,” said Barbara McFarquhar, chair of the conference board. She said churches often believe they are too small to be able to do something and she wants leaders to realize they are not alone.

“There are people you can work with,” she said.

Participants will attend three workshops during the mission fair. Each district superintendent from the central region will be representing the Raritan Valley, Northern Shore, and Capital districts, will celebrate a missional bright spot from their district they are from, but pre-registration is required as you know you have hit on something.”

Coaching Signups Underway

By Jeff Wolfe
jwolfe@gnjumc.org

If you missed the first coaching session for clergy, you might have missed something special.

At least that’s the feedback that Coaching Project Manager Rev. Myrva Bethke is hearing as the first season of coaching, which began last winter, is nearing its close. Signups are now open at www.gnjumc.org for the second season of coaching.

“From what I am hearing from churches, congregations are noticing that their clergy are leading differently,” said Bethke, who is the Gateway South District Superintendent. “I am hearing too that it has helped sharpen leadership skills and empowered them to become more effective leaders.”

A coaching season lasts about eight months with clergy talking with coaches, whether by phone or in person, for a total of eight hours during those months. The sessions can be an hour long once a month or can be 30 minutes long with 16 sessions over the same period.

Bethke said more than 130 clergy were involved in coaching at some level during the first season, which began in January after the Bishop’s Convocation where Chris Holmes, who teaches the Coach Approach Skill Training, led training sessions on that method.

“Coaching is one of the purest forms of empowerment and Chris Holmes is changing the church and its leaders through his Coach Approach Skill Training,” said Bishop John Schol. “Leaders are changing how they lead and how they work with others because of the Holmes Coaching Group. Leaders who have received coaching or training from Chris and his team all come away invigorated, with a new set of tools for leadership and more confidence in their leadership.”

There are different levels of training that allow clergy to be coaches. Clergy who have completed the Cast 1 and Cast 2 training can do individual coaching. Clergy who have done Cast 3 training can do group and team coaching. Bethke said that all members of the GNJ connecational ministries team and the nine district superintendents have been trained at the Cast 3 level. Each training session takes between 2 and 2 and a half days for the first three levels.

Bethke said each coach can carry between eight and 15 people. And that there is no firm deadline for signups in this season. She said it’s possible for those who sign up to have a group that’s full or have a group that’s finished by the end of the season.

“Some coaches are on a bit of a different schedule, so we may not be able to accommodate everyone immediately,” she said. “It’s an ongoing thing.”

Coaching not only gives the individual person being coached new ideas, but the clergy person can then go and influence people in their congregations from what they’ve learned.

“I think another thing I’ve been seeing is that it changes the way clergy have been leading,” Bethke said. “I think it is helping clergy be more directive and proactive in helping move congregations from hopes and dreams into action plans.”

Bethke also knows from being a coach that it can have a positive effect on the coaches themselves.

“It is exciting to see people get enthused and energetic,” she said. “I love to hear people say ‘that’s a good question’ because you know you have hit on something for them.”

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When children started attending the Bridgeport Bridges of Growth for Children summer education program, they were initially shy and uncertain. By the end of the summer however, relationships with program staff had blossomed and new friendships with other children had been forged. The summer school program is a part of a larger ministry project between all of the United Methodist churches in the greater Bridgeport area. The member of Child Labor and the slavery question until the 1844 split? The social creed spearheaded the end of child labor and our United Brethren? The social creed is a source for long-term deep, dynamic identity can better navigate today's history inspires present day members events informs a congregation's DNA and failures are all part of developing a congregations. A church that understands its past think how these facts can entice visitors to help the congregation knowing they were a part of something that real meaning in the name of faith. If done right, a solid, well-written his...inspiration on how to produce a solid church history that can bring to the vital church table? The United Methodist Center on the campus of Drew University will host a six-hour seminar on archives and history. If you wish to review our music for yourself, we welcome your to our home. For more information about its Safe Sanctuaries policy, or needs to fully adopt one, just who to contact for support.

The Bridgeton Bridges of Growth ministry had more than 120 students attend. The ministry was part of a collaborative effort of Methodist churches in Bridgeton during the summer. Rev. John Randall of First United Methodist Church was delighted that 20 children came to worship on the Sunday that the church hosted the school. The program created an opportunity for friendships to grow between children from different ethnic backgrounds who traditionally do not interact in Bridgeport. The program leaders developed a cultural component at each church. Each church hosted half day sessions of the school for two weeks. The program was developed to strengthen the educational opportunities for children in the community, provided nutritious meals and lunch in a fun, safe, faith-based, learning environment.

A Church History Can Help Soul And Growth

By Mark Shenise

What does it mean to be a United Methodist congregation in this rapidly changing society? That question and others like it have been asked in one form or another in every generation since the 1786 Christmas Conference. The questions are legitimate, but to answer them we have to begin by looking at the unique way our denomination writes its history. There are a source for long-term deep, dynamic issues around the world. But do you know if your congregation is remaining the same, it's just that if a policy needs to be certified, or if there are any other questions, churches can just call their district office.

Each of the districts will also have a Safe Sanctuaries regional coordinator. The regional coordinators' role is to serve as a district-wide resource for Safe Sanctuaries. Kinship Care is an example of a Safe Sanctuaries policy which can be found by going to www.gnjumc.org and then searching for safe sanctuaries. If they do have a policy, they should let people know about it and celebrate it, Munoz said. "If they do not have a policy, they need to adopt one as soon as possible. An example of a Safe Sanctuaries policy can be found by going to www.gnjumc.org and then searching for safe sanctuaries. If they do have a policy, they should let people know about it and celebrate it, Munoz said. "If they do not have a policy, they need to contact their district office for support.”

The United Methodist Commission on Archives and History has developed a new opportunity for families who do not have financial resources to send their children to a summer program. This was the first summer that some of the children had a place to go every day and receive breakfast and lunch in a fun, safe, faith-based, learning environment. The summer school program is a part of a larger ministry project between all of the United Methodist churches in the greater Bridgeport area. The member of Child Labor and the slavery question until the 1844 split? The social creed spearheaded the end of child labor and our United Brethren? The social creed is a source for long-term deep, dynamic identity can better navigate today's history inspires present day members events informs a congregation's DNA and failures are all part of developing a congregations. A church that understands its past think how these facts can entice visitors to help the congregation knowing they were a part of something that real meaning in the name of faith. If done right, a solid, well-written his...inspiration on how to produce a solid church history that can bring to the vital church table? The United Methodist Center on the campus of Drew University will host a six-hour seminar on archives and history. If you wish to review our music for yourself, we welcome your to our home. For more information about its Safe Sanctuaries policy, or needs to fully adopt one, just who to contact for support.

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Each of the districts will also have a Safe Sanctuaries regional coordinator. The regional coordinators' role is to serve as a district-wide resource for Safe Sanctuaries. Kinship Care is an example of a Safe Sanctuaries policy which can be found by going to www.gnjumc.org and then searching for safe sanctuaries. If they do have a policy, they should let people know about it and celebrate it, Munoz said. "If they do not have a policy, they need to adopt one as soon as possible. An example of a Safe Sanctuaries policy can be found by going to www.gnjumc.org and then searching for safe sanctuaries. If they do have a policy, they should let people know about it and celebrate it, Munoz said. "If they do not have a policy, they need to contact their district office for support.”

The United Methodist Commission on Archives and History has developed a new opportunity for families who do not have financial resources to send their children to a summer program. This was the first summer that some of the children had a place to go every day and receive breakfast and lunch in a fun, safe, faith-based, learning environment. The summer school program is a part of a larger ministry project between all of the United Methodist churches in the greater Bridgeport area. The member of Child Labor and the slavery question until the 1844 split? The social creed spearheaded the end of child labor and our United Brethren? The social creed is a source for long-term deep, dynamic identity can better navigate today's history inspires present day members events informs a congregation's DNA and failures are all part of developing a congregations. A church that understands its past think how these facts can entice visitors to help the congregation knowing they were a part of something that real meaning in the name of faith. If done right, a solid, well-written his...inspiration on how to produce a solid church history that can bring to the vital church table? The United Methodist Center on the campus of Drew University will host a six-hour seminar on archives and history. If you wish to review our music for yourself, we welcome your to our home. For more information about its Safe Sanctuaries policy, or needs to fully adopt one, just who to contact for support.

The Bridgeton Bridges of Growth ministry had more than 120 students attend. The ministry was part of a collaborative effort of Methodist churches in Bridgeton during the summer. Rev. John Randall of First United Methodist Church was delighted that 20 children came to worship on the Sunday that the church hosted the school. The program created an opportunity for friendships to grow between children from different ethnic backgrounds who traditionally do not interact in Bridgeport. The program leaders developed a cultural component at each church. Each church hosted half day sessions of the school for two weeks. The program was developed to strengthen the educational opportunities for children in the community, provided nutritious meals and lunch in a fun, safe, faith-based, learning environment.
Timing Perfect For AFWH, Atlantic City Family

By Jeff Wolfe
jwolfe@gnjumc.org

A Future With Hope came along at just the right time in Damita Daniel’s life.

The Atlantic City resident had been trying to find a way to get her house repaired after it was severely damaged in Superstorm Sandy in October of 2012. Then she was told she was losing her 30-year job as a casino worker.

A Future With Hope did indeed give Daniel and her family a hopeful future. "The timing was perfect, and I'm a firm believer that things are going to happen to you, it's just a matter of where you are at in life," Daniel said. "I was at Bally's for 30 years and one day I was getting all this joyous news about my home, and then the next day said we have to let you go."

"But this (the news about getting the house rebuilt) was able to carry me from that. That's the timing I'm talking about. I believe if you keep it going and you keep it moving and do the things you are supposed to do, God up above will take you through."

The home rebuilding journey for Daniel and her family was officially completed in August. Othiel and her family was officially completed with a house blessing. "When any project is complete, there is of course a sense of relief and gratification and usually a sense of satisfaction," said AFWH construction foreman Jim Watson. "With this house in particular, it was for such a good cause. The family was so gracious and kind for being out of their home as long as they were. It's a testament to who they are as people. It's especially gratifying this time because they were so grateful and understanding every step of the way."

"That understanding was helped partly because of the trust that the Danieles had in A Future With Hope’s case manager Shawn Dickerson. It turns out, Damita Daniel and Dickerson grew up in the same neighborhood."

"I remember when she first came up to the house, but I couldn’t see her very good and I was just looking at her," Daniel said. "Then I saw it was Shawnee. I grew up with her. I said God is sitting right here."

The faith of Daniel and her family was evident throughout the process, said AFWH case manager Jay Tunnicliffe, who also worked with the family.

"The biggest thing I learned in this specific case is that we are not necessarily the ones who give hope," he said. "Sometimes the homeowners give us hope. Every time I called with news of some type of difficult hiccup, they maintained their patience and faith. It does prove that everything in time, does work together for God’s glory."

Daniel says, too, that working with AFWH certainly strengthened her faith. "I lost a 30 year job, but I feel more at peace now than when I went to work because I know I can make it now," she said.

Daniel’s daughter, Damisha, pointed out that her mom has always found a way to make ends meet without outside assistance, but that was not possible when dealing with such significant damage from Superstorm Sandy. "I want to thank you for everything you’ve done," Damisha Daniel said at the house blessing. "My mom has worked all of her life and never asked anybody for anything. But the one time she needed it, you came."

Magazine Features AFWH

By Cynthia Mosley
Cmosley1978@hotmail.com

The Greater New Jersey Conference Committee on American Indian Ministries (CCONAM) sponsored a trip to Carlisle, Pa., for Lenni Lenape Tribal members and others in June. In all, 45 people who wanted to understand more about forced boarding school, a disrespectful and unhappy part of American history from 1879-1919, went on the trip.

According to history shared by the tour’s guide, European settlers and the United States government were distraught of the indigenous tribes and followed a philosophy of “assimilation or extermination.”

Native American children were removed from their culture and families and housed in forced boarding schools until the so called assimilation was thought to be complete. The Carlisle School is one such location and the closest one to New Jersey. This school is now the United States Army War College where upper level military personnel from all over the world are educated in the tactics of war.

Remnants from the old boarding school remain. A museum inside the building includes information about the boarding school days. Native American children are photographed in gray flannel uniforms with their braids and dark hair shorn. The museum also highlights the school’s most famous graduate Jim Thorpe, a Sac and Fox member from Prague, Okla. The fitness center was named for this former Olympian, famous for his prowess in football, track and field, and baseball.

At the tour’s close, a guide directed the tour members to a cemetery where children who did not survive the boarding school experience were buried. Most of the children were less than 10 years old and died without their families’ prayers and support. Can that kind of loss ever be remembered without tears?

The United Methodist Church of Greater New Jersey held a Native American Witness and Acts of Repentance Service at its 2014 Annual Conference because of those type of acts that occurred.

All of the travelers thanked CCONAM for the opportunity to learn more about this sad time in the history of the United States. Members of CCONAM and others continue to pray that never again will a man and a culture face extinction at the hand of his brother.

Anyone interested in visiting the Carlisle Indian School or the Nanticoke Lenni Lenape Cultural Center should contact Cynthia Kent at njcyndi@live.com or Cynthia Mosley cmosley1978@hotmail.com.

CCONAM Sponsors Carlisle Trip

Conducted by page 2

Mike: What sorts of problems do you typically see in damaged homes?
Lou: Sandy blew roofs off. It blew windows in. Water damage is a primary problem and that water damage can cause cast iron pipes for the sewer to crack. It can cause shifting of the foundations. It can cause electrical issues. It can cause shifting of the support columns and beams within the crawl spaces and basement walls. We have a multitude of problems so our approach has been more holistic.

Carolyn: A Future With Hope is the most robust recovery organization in the state of New Jersey. As the years have gone by and we’re nearing the three-year mark, Sandy, the effects of Sandy and Sandy Recovery are out of the news cycle. So people around the country, people around the state are not familiar with the need that still exists. We have an estimated 10,000 families New Jersey alone that are still not in their homes after the storm. Our job is to stay on the ground until that work is done.

Mike: If they’re not in their homes, where are they?
Carolyn: In jan reassures’ couches, on the second floor of their homes. People live in damaged homes, apartments and mobile homes. They are living in their cars, paying rent and a mortgage. They are in a downward spiral of debt because their resources are gone. They are not currently employed and are struggling. They are struggling to pay rent and a mortgage. They are in a downward spiral of debt because their resources are gone.

Lou: We recently welcomed our 10,000th volunteer. They all feel they get blessed more than they give, be the hands and feet of Christ.
Carolyn: That’s how I feel—I used to have a job and a career and now I have a mission.
CONFERENCE HAPPENINGS

Bishop Schol to speak at First UMC Moorestown’s 200th anniversary

First United Methodist Church of Moorestown has spent the better part of 2015 celebrating its 200th anniversary. Founded Aug. 21, 1815, the church has grown from a few members at an early brick meeting house to 979 members, who worship today at the church’s fourth location. The celebration will include a Sept. 13 service with Bishop John Schol preaching. The church’s celebration theme has been “200 years of faith, hope, love and charity.” According to membership records, Frances Duffner, who lives in Moorestown, joined the church in 1928 and is the longest tenured church member. In 1815, the church was incorporated as the Moorestown Methodist Meeting House and was later built on land secured from one of the trustees. In the early years, the church had about 50 members, according to an article in the Moorestown paper about the church’s 135th anniversary. The next church building, also located in downtown Moorestown, was dedicated in 1860 and remodeled and expanded in 1901. In the 1950s, the church relocated to the western end of Moorestown, where members worshipped in what today is its Fellowship Hall, until the current sanctuary was completed in 1967. A music building and educational wing were completed in late 2003. For more about the history, visit: www.meetwithgod.com/news-events/200-year-anniversary-celebration.

Photograph by Susan Rapp

During the First UMC of Moorestown’s 200th History Night, Bertha Bendel, who has been a member at Moorestown since 1935, discusses early pastors and parishioners she has known.

Church and Society Training: Racial Justice and White Privilege

United Methodists have a special button in their Bible to respond to discrimination with love and gratitude to God. The Board of Church and Society is hosting training focusing on helping church leaders facilitate discussions about difficult social justice topics. United Methodist Women Executive Secretaries Janis Rosheuvel and Mollie Victoria will lead a discussion on Racial Justice and White Privilege. The training will be held on Saturday, Sept. 26, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at St. John’s UMC (2000 Florence Avenue, Hazlet, NJ 07730). The registration fee is $10 per person. To register or learn more, contact Rev. Jonathan Campbell at pastor@campbell@hotmail.com or 845-893-9157.

Christian College Fair Set for Aldersgate UMC in East Brunswick

Are you interested to learn about what Christian colleges have to offer? More than 30 Christian colleges will be on hand for the Christian College Fair hosted by Aldersgate UMC in East Brunswick from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 15. For more information, go to: http://mybibleprintstore.com/

Three Dates Announced For Early Response Team Training

The United Methodist Church of Greater New Jersey has trained more than 300 people to become Early Response Team members. Current members must recertify every three years and more members are welcome. The training dates and places this year are Saturday, Sept. 26 at Richwood UMC, Saturday, Oct. 24 at Delran UMC and Saturday, Dec. 5 at Cokesbury UMC in Lebanon, N.J. The cost is $25 per person for new ERTs and $15 for refresher ERTs (please bring your training manual). Class for new ERTs is from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. and refresher ERT training is from 12:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. Classes are taught by authorized UMCOR trainers, and team members are given ID badges as evidence of training, after background checks. Information regarding a background check is needed and a photo will be taken at the class for the ID card. For more information contact Disaster ERT Coordinator, UMCOR Authorized Instructor Carol Brozosky at carol@EHTprogress.com.

St. Paul’s in Ocean Grove, Allen Chapel A.M.E. To Share Special Event

St. Paul’s UMC in Ocean Grove and Allen Chapel A.M.E. Church in Asbury Park will share a meal, music and speakers in a special kingdom building event from 5:30 to 9 p.m. on Oct. 18 at St. Paul’s in Ocean Grove. Choirs from each church will sing and speakers from each church will share messages about African American and Caucasian initiatives and cooperation. A free will offering will benefit the Allen Project, Inc. Those who attend are asked to bring a covered dish, dessert or beverage as fried chicken will be provided. For more information contact Helen McCaill at nelenemcclai@optimum.net.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Email dewalter12@verizon.net or call 908.757.5290

Wesley UMC in South Plainfield is seeking a part-time Young Adult Coordinator and a part-time Bell Choir Director.

STEWARDSHIP STORIES

by Rich Hendrickson, Director of Stewardship & Visioning

What A Privilege It Is To Give!

Recently I had the opportunity to work at an A Future With Hope work site. It was hot, sweaty, dirty, dusty work and it was great. The feeling of helping a family get closer to moving home after being displaced for so long after Sandy far outweighed any discomfort that might have been mine during the actual work. I’ve also been able to help friends who have been struggling financially. I’ve spent a great deal of my time off working with them, helping them look at their expenses, income, and develop a strategy to address their financial situation. I would not trade those hours for anything as I’ve been blessed to be a part of their moving from desperation to hope.

In the same way I’ve been reflecting on all the awesome, life-changing ministry I and my family have been a part of over the years simply because we’ve been invited to share our financial resources in ways and places that have deeply impacted the lives of others. We’ve helped build a church in North Katanga, Africa, end suffering and death from malaria on the continent of Africa, rebuilt homes after Sandy, the earthquake in Haiti, the tsunami in the Far East, and made an impact in the churches and communities we’ve served simply by giving.

What a blessing, opportunity, and awesome feeling it is to give to God’s work in the world, to give so that others might be blessed, and to give as an expression of love and gratitude to God.

What a privilege it is to give. I highly recommend it!

Pictured are Klotes for Kids organizer Carlla Horton, Lay Leader at the UMC at Newfoundland, with volunteers Sean Fornermore, Eleanor Keating, Maureen Quinones, Danielle Bonann, Alice Bressett, Laurna Townsend and Michelle Dale. UMC at Newfoundland Sponsors Klotes For Kids Drive

The United Methodist Church at Newfoundland sponsored “Klotes for Kids” in June and provided hundreds of new items of clothing donated by Carter’s and Gymboree to local families. One grateful recipient’s thank you note stated: “Some of the clothes you donated are now helping a young, single mother with limited family support, as she struggles to raise her two young girls ages 3 and 5 on her own. Your help is much appreciated.”

Boonton UMC Giving Away Robes

Boonton United Methodist Church has extra robes that it is giving away. The church has eight burgundy robes in teenage sizes, five blue robes in youth sizes and the stoles have the Methodist cross and flame embossed on them. For more information contact, 973-334-8275.

Rhoads Temple UMC to host Saddlertown Day

Friends and members of Rhoades Temple United Methodist Church will host Saddlertown Day from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 19. The community celebration will offer family friendly activities including food, music, children’s crafts, guided tours of nearby Sudder’s Woods, tours of the historic Rhoads Temple United Methodist Church in Haddon Township, and displays and discussions on the history of Saddlertown, founder Joshua Saddler, and the Fusilier ancestors. The event is free and open to the public. For information contact Rhoades Temple pastor Rev. Alice Cook at 856-661-9366.

OBITUARIES

Naomi L. Costello, lay member of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference died on April 11. A viewing was held on April 18. Memorial Donations (In lieu of flowers) may be sent to: Margaret Trinity UMC at 8 S. Jefferson Ave. Margate City, NJ 08402.

Rev. Harold P. Johnson, retired Elder of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference died on August 15. Expressions of sympathy may be sent to: Mrs. Ethel Johnson at P.O. Box 1071, Penney Farms, FL 32079.

Reginald Crute, spouse of Full Elder Hillary Johnson Crute, died on Saturday, August 22. Viewings were held on Aug. 26 and Aug. 27. The funeral service was held on Aug. 27.

Expressions of sympathy may be sent to: Rev. Hillary Johnson Crute at Trinity United Methodist Church, 70 Manalapan Road, Spotswood, NJ 08884.

Rev. George C. Schliesinger and spouse Maxine Schliesinger, each died on Aug. 4. There was viewing held for each on Aug. 9 and a funeral service on Aug. 10. Memorial Donations (In lieu of flowers) may be sent to: Memorial Fund, First UMC, 129 Chestnut Street, Toms River, NJ 08753. Meals on Wheels of Ocean County, 226 Fourth Street, Lakewood, NJ 08701, Monmouth County SPDA, 290 Wall Street, Eatontown, NJ 07724.

Expressions of sympathy may be sent to: Ivy Kim (daughter), address: 531 Longstreet Ave., Brielle, NJ 08730.

Rev. Dr. Robert D. Simpson, retired Elder of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference died on Thursday, Aug. 6. A memorial service will be held at 7 p.m. on Oct. 16, 2015 at Chatham UMC, 460 Main Street, Chatham, NJ 07928.

Expressions of sympathy may be sent to: The family at www.bradleyfuneralhomes.com.